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DOCKET NO.: 9576-001-27

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
PO BOX 1450  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

Re: Serial No.: 09/973,750  
Applicant(s): MICHAEL FERGUSON  
Filing Date: OCTOBER 11, 2001  
For: POULTRY LITTER FERTILIZER  
Group Art Unit: 1761  
Examiner: SAYALA, C.

SIR:

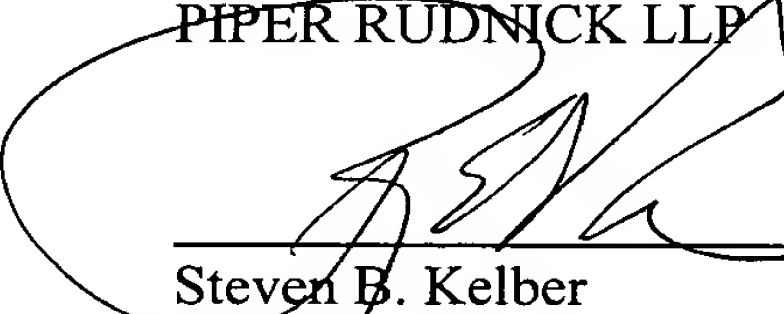
Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Our check in the amount of \$ -0- is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary extension of time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to Deposit Account No. 50-1442. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a request is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

PIPER RUDNICK LLP

  
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DOCKET NO. 9576-001-27

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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IN RE APPLICATION OF: MICHAEL FERGUSON    ART UNIT: 1761  
SERIAL NO.: 09/973,750    EXAMINER: SAYALA, C.  
FILING DATE: OCTOBER 11, 2001  
FOR:            POULTRY LITTER FERTILIZER

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AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

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SIR:

Responsive to the Restriction Requirement dated September 11, 2003, Applicants elect, albeit with traverse, Group II, Claims 10-17 for further prosecution at this time.

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, and to advance the prosecution thereof, please amend the above-referenced application in the following manner.